



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: \_\_\_\_\_ Complete: XXX Exploration: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Date & Time: 9/13/2000 / 2:30p.m.-5:00p.m.

Date of Last Inspection: 8/23/2000

Mine Name: Gordon Creek 2, 7, and 8 County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/016  
 Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Mountain Coal Company  
 Business Address: P.O. Box 591, Somerset, Colorado 81434  
 Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface \_\_\_\_\_ Prep. Plant \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Official(s): Chris Hansen, Dan Guy  
 State Official(s): Joe Helfrich Federal Official(s): None  
 Weather Conditions: Fair, Warm  
 Existing Acreage: Permitted 2286 Disturbed 20.3 Regraded \_\_\_\_\_ Seeded \_\_\_\_\_  
 Status: Exploration \_\_\_\_\_ Active \_\_\_\_\_ Inactive \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary Cessation \_\_\_\_\_ Bond Forfeiture \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reclamation (Phase I XXX Phase II \_\_\_\_\_ Final Bond Release \_\_\_\_\_ Liability \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_)

### REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
  - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter- April, May, June)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

DATE OF INSPECTION: 9/13/2000

( COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE )

### 1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

UPDES permit #UTG04004 has one discharge point, 001A. The permit is currently in force and expires April 30, 2001.

The permit was renewed August 28, 1999. One condition was attached to the permit as follows:

“Mountain Coal Company, LLC will submit water quality data electronically to the Division for the Gordon Creek #2, #7 and #8 Mine beginning with data for the fourth quarter of 1999.”

Second quarter water monitoring has been submitted electronically.

### 2. SIGNS AND MARKERS

The permit sign at the end of the county road had been painted over with orange spray paint as an indication for no trespassing. Apparently to keep individuals out during the ongoing archery season. The information was still visible through the paint.

### 3. TOPSOIL

The Coal waste that appeared along the reclaimed channel (Figure 1), has not changed in size or appearance since the two previous inspections. A site visit by the technical staff on July 20<sup>th</sup> concluded that “ *if no further exposure of coal material occurs, the three exposed pockets of coal do not significantly impact reclamation. However, if exposure continues, then remedial action needs to occur to assess the extent of the coal contamination and to remove the coal contaminated material and to bury the material beneath four feet of clean fill.*” Three photos of the areas were taken for reference and comparison (Figures 2, 3, and 4, photo page).

### 4B. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The second quarter pond inspections for the 2, 7, & 8 Sediment Pond, Jacobs Pond, and Sweets Pond were conducted by Dan Guy on 6/23/2000. On the day of this inspection, the sediment and Jacob's ponds contained water.

### 4C. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

The rock check dams treating the runoff from the Fan Portal area had been cleaned. The Operator plans to submit a request to the division to allow vegetation to act as the sediment control for the area pending completion of the vegetation assessment this fall.

### 4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

Data sheets for the second quarter water monitoring were reviewed. No anomalies were noted in the data.

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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### 4E. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

UPDES discharge reports were reviewed for the second quarter. No discharge was reported for April, May, and June.

### 8. NONCOAL WASTE

Non-coal waste has surfaced in numerous areas throughout the site as noted in the previous complete and partial inspections. The material had been cleaned up as of the date of this inspection.

### 9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

Wildlife continue to use the site for water and foraging.

### 13. REVEGETATION

The dominant plant species on site is alfalfa interspersed with perennial grasses, forbs, and some wild rose. Noxious weeds had been sprayed. However, several thistle remained that needed to be bagged. The top strand of wire on the upper fence was knocked down near Jacobs pond. Water was flowing from the fault above #7 Mine, Right Fork of Bryner Canyon, and Jacobs pond.

### 16B. ROADS: DRAINAGE CONTROLS

Along the county road and outside the disturbed area are rock check dams structures that the mine installed many years ago and have maintained until last fall (See Figures 4 & 5 below). Water in the pond by the check dam had disappeared through a piping hole. The channel was walked below the area and no outlet to the water was observed. The County Road Dept. fixed the piping hole prior to the inspection on 8/23/2000.

### 21. BONDING AND INSURANCE

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company holds the \$641,443.00 bond. St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company carries a \$500,000 general liability coverage which expires 7/31/01.

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Joseph C. Helfrich*  
Joseph C. Helfrich #1

Date: September 20, 2000

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining.

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cc: James Fulton, OSM  
Chris Hansen, Canyon Fuel Company  
Dan Guy, Blackhawk Engineering  
Price Field office

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**INSPECTION REPORT**  
(Photograph Attachment)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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( PHOTOGRAPHS )



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**